



Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

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Arc-diversified Steps Up Productivity to Help Nation

Within hours of the September 11th airplane crashes at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, workers at Arc-diversified in Cookeville, TN stepped up their productivity.

Arc-diversified is a specialty company that has a contract to prepare food for U.S. Navy sailors and submariners. They now have employees working 10-hour shifts to fill the cupboards on vessels preparing to ship out.

Arc's production workers, each of whom has a disability, aren't complaining. As a matter of fact they are very proud of the way everyone has responded.

They are working very hard to provide semi-perishable items for various feeding programs of the federal

government for the Department of Defense.

Arc-diversified manufactures and packages a variety of bakery mixes, milk-based products, cooking oils and



dehydrated vegetables for submarine and ship support. They distribute them out to prime vendors who carry that material forward to each vessel

as it loads out.

Arc-diversified employs about 145 people with anything from autism to head injuries, orthopedic impairments, skilled people who have been injured in industrial accidents, mental illness and mental retardation.

They are not a sheltered workshop. No one starts at less than \$6 per hour and all employees have full health benefits, a 401(k) and life insurance. Arc-diversified prepares people to go out to industry. About 80% of the company's work force has a severe disability.

Their facility is a U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified food processing plant that is subject to the same standards and controls of any similar plant in the country.

At Statewide Conference

Independent Support Coordinators Honored

In March, DMRS and the Tennessee Alliance of Support Coordinators sponsored the first statewide conference for Independent Support Coordinators. The event was held in Nashville and was attended by

over 150 representatives from the ISC community.

The theme of the conference was "Supporting Quality Lives." It was a theme that best describes the essence of support coordination.

National, state and community professionals gave presentations on topics of self-determination and advocacy, improving health support, housing, valued day, planning, personal outcomes and time management.

Additionally, the conference became a chance for ISCs from all across the state to meet and support one another and well as collect information from provider exhibits.

ISCs were nominated for outstanding service by their peers and were recognized at the conference. Nominations were in the following categories:

OUTSTANDING SERVICE CERTIFICATES		Leadership Certificates	
Claire Gray	CDC: Middle	Julie Vest	Neighborhood Network West
Kristi Lane	ARC: Middle	Nora Buckley	Compass West
Doris Hickman	Comm. Connections: M	Kelly Brownlee	Comm. Connections Middle
Shelley Lindahl	Comm. Connections: M	Keith Fine	TAP East
Lee Anne Williams	CDC: Middle	Leadership Distinction Plaques	
Tammy Lowe	Arc of Washington: E	Michelle Rapp	Compass West
Rachel King	Arc of Washington: E	Glenda Griffin	CDC Middle
Deana Alexander	Neighborhood Ntwk: W	Ann Pope	TAP East
Jetton Tyson	Neighborhood Ntwk: W	Dedication & Svc to the Planning Committee	
Barbara Baum	TAP: West	Audrey Henderson	Community Ntwk Svcs: E
Karen Berkley	TAP: West	Laurie Gienapp	Community Ntwk Svcs: E
Rebecca Hall	Comm. Connections: W		
Peggy Halton	Comm. Connections: W		
Lynn Hylton	TAP: East		
Gary Clark	TAP: East		

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Quote of the Day

"Service is the rent we each pay for living. It is not something to do in your spare time; it is the very purpose of life."

.....**Marian Wright Edelman**, founder and president, Children's Defense Fund and 2000 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest civilian award.



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A publication of the Division of Mental Retardation Services

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Dr. C. Warren Neel, Commissioner
Finance and Administration
Barbara Brent, Deputy
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The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



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Quarterly Meetings Continue in East Tennessee

Quarterly meetings are continuing in East Tennessee with families and individuals supported through the Division. They are held in Chattanooga, Knoxville and Johnson City on topics that are of interest to the participants.

If you would like to attend or want more information, you can contact the East Tennessee training coordinator, Alice Taylor at (423) 787-6757 ext.112.

The next meetings are planned for November 5th and 6th and will be on trusts, wills and futures planning.



Support Coordinators Honored

cont.

- Outstanding Service (2 ISC's per agency) - individuals were nominated by their devotion to the people he/she supports, personal standards of excellence in their work, and an overall success in their job performance.
- Distinction in Leadership (1 per

region) - the nominees for this category were chosen by their display of leadership skills to their peers and within their agency, their show of extraordinary measures in obtaining services and supports for individuals, and their display of exemplary job performance.

Central and Regional Information Specialists

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Tricia Price	Nashville Regional Office	(615)231-5033	(615)231-5150
Fred Coe	Knoxville Regional Office	(865)588-0508 Ext.108	(865)594-5180

Toll Free Lines For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
Memphis Regional Office	1-800-308-2586
Nashville Regional Office	1-800-654-4839
Knoxville Regional Office	1-888-310-4613

Web Site

Commission on Compliance/
Division of Mental Retardation
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<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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